GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1048
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011
GROUND WATER POLLUTION
Dubey Shri Nishikant

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of pollution in ground water in various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the real situation in various urban and rural areas in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure clean and potable water to the people of urban and rural areas in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (d) As reported by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), ground water samples are collected through a network of around 15000 observation wells once a year during pre-monsoon season. The ground water samples are also collected for water quality analyses during the course of ground water exploration, ground water management studies and special studies in the selected urban / industrial areas. The samples are analysed for major ions. The State-wise details of groundwater contamination with fluoride, nitrate, arsenic, iron and heavy metals in excess of Bureau of Indian Standard's prescribed limits in ground water are given at Annexure.

(e) The following steps have been undertaken to ensure clean and potable water:

In areas affected by the problem of geogenic contaminants like arsenic and fluoride in ground water, the Central Ground Water Board carries out exploratory drilling in consultation with the State agencies for delineation of contaminant free aquifer zones. Exploratory wells after completion and collecting necessary scientific information are handed over to the concerned State agencies for utilization by them.

The potability of water is being ensured by the Public Water Supply, Public Health Engineering Department, Jal Board, Jal Nigam and other Municipal Authorities. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is supplementing the efforts of the States under its National Rural Drinking Water Programme in providing safe drinking water in rural areas of the country.

Control of Industrial pollution under the provision of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

Action Plans have been evolved as per Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) for Critically Polluted Areas.

Establishment of Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of Small Scale Industrial units.

Urban centers have been identified for interception, diversion and development of treatment facilities under various River Action Plans.